

SENATE RESOLUTION 125
By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Sam Furrow of
Knoxville for his outstanding accomplishments
as an entrepreneur.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the members of this legislative body should honor those exemplary individuals whose intense dedication and hard work have had a significant impact on this great state; and

WHEREAS, Sam Furrow is one such estimable citizen who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Paint Rock community of Roane County, Sam Furrow exemplifies the true spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, known fondly to most as "Big Sam", Sam Furrow has been an avid auctioneer and fundraiser since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Furrow received his bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1963, where he founded the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, it was during one of his many fraternity events that Sam Furrow met and fell in love with the former Ann Baker, a sweetheart in Sam's fraternity; and

WHEREAS, after a one-year courtship, Sam and Ann were married in April of 1967, and the couple's happy union produced two children, Lee Ann Tolsma and Jay Furrow; and

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WHEREAS, Sam Furrow proudly served his nation in the United States Army in the officer training branch of the Quartermasters School at Fort Lee, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, he returned to Knoxville to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he received his law degree in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Sam Furrow began his meritorious career as an auctioneer soon after he was married, when he would work auctions with his father, J.H. Furrow; and

WHEREAS, it was through the auction business that Sam Furrow began to sell coal and farming equipment and, in 1977, he founded the Furrow/Justice Machinery Corporation, which eventually purchased the John Deere dealership in 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Sam Furrow went into the automobile business, when he and two other partners bought Knoxville Motor Company, the Mercedes-Benz dealer of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Sam bought out partners Doug Morrison and Chuck Simpson to become the sole owner of the Knoxville Motor Company; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Knoxville Motor Company, Sam Furrow later established Land Rover of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, although he is known for his exemplary auctioneering talents and his Mercedes-Benz and Land Rover dealerships, Sam Furrow is also a successful real estate developer; and

WHEREAS, despite the many demands placed upon him, Sam Furrow still manages to lend his time and immeasurable talents to numerous community projects and fundraising, such as the Knoxville Zoo capital funds drive and the Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize the remarkable accomplishments of this outstanding gentleman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and recognize Sam

Furrow for all of his meritorious accomplishments, and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.